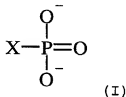


[CLAIMS]

1. Direct-to-plate method of lithographic printing with a reusable substrate having a hydrophilic surface comprising the steps of:
 - (a) making a negative-working imaging layer by coating on the hydrophilic surface a solution comprising hydrophobic thermoplastic particles;
 - (b) making a printing master having ink-accepting areas by image-wise exposing the imaging layer to heat or light;
 - (c) applying ink and fountain solution to the printing master;
 - (d) removing the ink-accepting areas from the printing master by supplying a cleaning liquid to the imaging layer thereby obtaining a recycled substrate and
 - (e) treating the recycled substrate by supplying an aqueous solution having a $\text{pH} < 7$.
2. Method according to claim 1 wherein the negative-working imaging layer comprises a hydrophilic binder.
3. Method according to claim 1 wherein the aqueous solution having a $\text{pH} < 7$ comprises a compound according to formula I:



wherein X is OH, O^- or a polymer backbone.

4. Method according to claim 3 wherein the compound according to formula (I) is phosphoric acid or a phosphate salt.
5. Method according to claim 1 wherein during step (d) the printing master is treated by mechanical means such as a cloth, a rotating brush or by jetting water or a volatile medium.

6. Method according to claim 1 wherein the reusable substrate is a plate cylinder of a rotary press or a plate or sleeve mounted on a plate cylinder of a rotary press.

5 7. Method according to claim 1 wherein the solution, the cleaning liquid or the refreshing liquid is sprayed or jetted onto the substrate.

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